

These meeting minutes are not official until approved by the  
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CULVER CITY PARKS, RECREATION  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 5, 2026  
7:00 P.M.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Alexander called the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to order at 7:01 P.M. in Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Present:** Crystal Alexander, Chair  
Maggie Peters, Vice Chair  
Marci Baun, Commissioner  
Jennifer Chen, Commissioner  
Thomas Whitaker, Commissioner

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Items from Commissioners/Staff**

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, indicated that staff would provide their comments at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Whitaker announced the Culver City Car Show on May 9; reported attending the meeting for the Fox Hills Specific Plan; discussed comments he provided about green space and lighting; and shared his experience attending the Vibes After Five event.

Commissioner Chen welcomed those in attendance; noted the importance of providing a forum for public comment and helping represent community voices; and expressed appreciation for outdoor recreation spaces noting the warmer weather and longer days.

Commissioner Baun wished everyone a Happy Cinco de Mayo; discussed a large paved enclosure full of containers on Leash Lane noting that could serve as a location for pickleball; questioned who was taking part of the park land; noted a new company opening up in the Blair Hills area called Padel that would have courts that are a combination of squash and tennis; discussed usage volume during the day at The Plunge; concern with wasting resources; she questioned the need for registration; and was looking forward to warmer weather or rain.

Vice Chair Peters welcomed those in attendance and wished everyone Happy Teacher Appreciation Week, Happy almost Mother's Day and Happy Maycember to those who celebrate.

Chair Alexander noted the upcoming Car Show; encouraged anyone interested to attend Fire Service Day and the pancake breakfast; discussed a recent nearby brush fire; announced various public meetings on the Culver City budget; discussed funding for the PRCS department; and the importance of providing public comment to share concerns and advocate for priorities.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda**

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

Adrian Cobian, Senior Management Analyst, confirmed that no public comment had been received for Items NOT on the Agenda.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Chair Alexander noted correspondence received related to Item A-1.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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**Consent Calendar Items**

Item C-1

**Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and  
Community Services Commission Meeting of March 3, 2026**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHITAKER  
AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE  
REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2026.

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Item C-2

**Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Parks, Recreation and  
Community Services Commission Meeting of April 16, 2026**

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES COMMISSION APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR PARKS,  
RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL  
16, 2026.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Action Items**

Item A-1

**Provide Direction to Staff Regarding the Court Stripping at  
Culver West Alexander and Syd Kronenthal**

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, provided a summary of the  
material of record.

Chair Alexander invited public participation:

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

Steve Gumplo, United States Paddle Tennis Association, expressed concern with public noticing for the meeting; stated that signage had not indicated that Syd Kronenthal Park was being discussed; noted that the pickleball community had called for the meeting so they were all present; discussed the need for fences with paddleball while pickleball can be played anywhere; asserted that pickleball players were killing off the 127 year old sport of paddleball; he pointed out that Culver City is the number one city in the world for paddle tennis; discussed pickleball players who painted lines on the best courts in the middle of the night at Elenda; and he noted that paddle tennis had been crossed out on the signage.

Calvin Page indicated being an avid pickleball and paddle tennis player; discussed his utilization of the courts; having a collaborative conversation; building more infrastructure and allocating resources to build more courts to solve the problem; support for preservation of the Elenda courts; support for fostering community; felt that the crew that painted the courts at Culver West had done a great job and it would be a waste of resources to have it repainted noting that most users there were pickleball players; and stated that users at Fox Hills and Syd Kronenthal would use the courts no matter which way they were painted.

Alyson Talante reported living adjacent to the Culver West Alexander courts; discussed the community of regular pickleball players; acknowledgement that paddle tennis is being pushed out; dual binding as solving the issue for both communities; support received in an online petition she created in support of a high contrast kitchen; she felt that the primary community of users should be what frames the Commission's decision; acknowledged sound issues; discussed addressing issues by installing sound mitigations similar to what has been installed at the Elenda courts; ensuring that no two groups need to be at odds with each other; support for dual striping with the high contrast kitchen; people who took inappropriate action to paint the courts; and players who want to continue using the community space.

Steve Mitsunaga discussed concern with inviting more vandalism to the courts with potential removal of the kitchen line at Syd Kronenthal and Culver West as users would add their own kitchen lines if they were not on the courts; previous

submission of rules to allow for equal play of time and fairness; the fight for over three years; previous approval and money allocated for resurfacing; current rules that cause contention and disrupt play; rule enforcement; and he encouraged the City to use the scoring system proposed three years ago.

Shannon Tham reported playing pickleball at Culver West Alexander; discussed the growing pickleball community; expressed appreciation for the resurfacing and dual use lines; did not want to see the lines redrawn; noted the group of people who like to play together; he offered to help the City with fundraising; and asserted that it was not very loud, but the City could spend money on sound proofing if a project is needed.

Kay Yamamoto discussed the importance of pickleball to provide a place to socialize and get exercise; asserted that for the fifth consecutive year pickleball is the fastest growing sport nationwide; indicated that Santa Monica would be closing Memorial Park in 2027 which would put pressure on remaining courts; discussed concern with removing access at Syd Kronenthal Park and Culver West Alexander Park; implementation of mitigation issues such as soundproofing, limited hours, or soft paddles and balls; potential fundraisers to purchase padding to address sound issues; finding a solution to continued issues; and she expressed support for accommodating both sports.

Jordan Hamano expressed appreciation for the meeting to consider issues; provided background on himself; felt there was room for both sports; acknowledged times when it is a struggle to share the courts noting that they always found a way to play and have fun; discussed becoming more active, social, and fit through the pickleball community; he advocated for keeping the contrast with the kitchen; noted that he plays most of his games with a quiet paddle; cited available technology to mitigate sound; and he indicated willingness to fundraise to help mitigate sound issues.

Timothy Fan spoke on behalf of all pickleball players regarding the kitchen lines.

John Giarratana indicated being a stakeholder and a member of the Palms Neighborhood Council; echoed previous comments made by his fellow pickleball community members; felt coexistence

of both communities was possible if infrastructure is put in; proposed instead of repainting courts, monies should be used to mitigate sound risks; discussed pickleball lines that are drawn in; use of public space to come together; and he felt Culver City should be the home of paddle tennis and pickleball for the next century.

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, announced receipt of a grant to redesign the storage area in Culver City Park behind the basketball court to be used as a racket court center with dedicated pickleball courts, a dedicated paddleball court and a dedicated tennis court noting the intent to provide a dedicated space for pickleball players in an area where residents would not be impacted by sound.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding ensuring that PRCS serves the community; the future vision to provide dedicated pickleball space; comments from the community in support of coexistence; the smaller pickleball court size; looking at best options for dual striping; understanding best usage for paddle tennis courts; serving both communities; ensuring being respectful to players and nearby community members; concern with additional wear and tear with people adding their own lines to courts that are not dual striped; damage done to the courts over time with tape and chalk added by pickleball players; average court lifespan; and the ability to make repairs.

Chair Alexander reminded a member of the public that the time for public comment had been completed.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the strong turnout from the pickleball community; willingness to engage with the City; value in keeping the community engaged and enfranchised; potential fundraising opportunity or collaboration with a non-profit sister organization; costs to resurface the courts; longevity of paddle tennis and concern with pushing it out; the relatively new pickleball sport; ensuring everyone gets enough time to play; costs to repaint; costs to soundproof at Elenda; sound issues related to the community rather than the sport; and concern with people feeling excluded.

Chair Alexander again reminded a member of the public that the time for public comment on the item had been completed.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding concern that paddle tennis players are having trouble getting access to courts designed for their sport; appreciation for the community built by pickleball players; acknowledgement of the importance of being able to engage in physical activity for mental health; timeframe of the design; the timeline to use the grant money; support for going back to non-contrast; allowing pickleball players to play on paddle tennis courts; support for moving quickly to build infrastructure for pickleball players; and encouragement for pickleball players to speak up at City Council meetings in order for funding to be allocated.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding acknowledgement of too few resources for too many people; whether to accommodate pickleball players that are going to play on the courts regardless; three courts that are painted high contrast with the kitchen; reluctance to spend money to repaint the courts at Culver West; consideration of dual striping at Fox Hills and Syd Kronenthal as people will chalk it or paint it anyway; lack of ability to enforce current codes; timeframe to construct new courts; looking into sound proofing to address noise complaints; consideration of net height; clarification that paddle tennis has a lower net; costs for adjustable poles; an observation that contrasting kitchens create an appearance of a pickleball court with the wrong net; the ability to keep dedicated paddle tennis courts with dual striping that allows people to bring in their own nets and create their own lines; adding signage to indicate awareness of the confusion over the net; support for repainting the kitchens if necessary while retaining the dual striping, and providing dual striping for the other courts.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding length of time the issue has been considered by the Commission; acknowledgement of the importance of community; mental and physical benefits; differences between the sports and the painted lines; use of contrasting colors; ball velocity of the different sports; the need to focus on the dedicated area; the suboptimal situation of coexisting; addressing the interim period before dedicated courts are created; the plan to reconfigure amenities at Tellefson Park; community feedback received; space underneath the light rail that could accommodate one or two pickleball courts; efforts of the Commission to address the demand; encouragement for advocates to attend the City Council budget meetings to make their wishes

known; transformation of an underutilized area into the Culver City Dog Park; encouragement for people to work with the City; support for dedicated pickleball courts; comments that the contrasting colored kitchens identifies the courts as pickleball courts; enforcement of rules; signage as effective for people who follow rules; the need to keep an eye on the budget; support for not re-doing the kitchens for the dual striped courts; and support for continued efforts toward dedicated pickleball courts in the City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the need for guidance on whether the Commission supports dual stripe at Syd Kronenthal and Culver West Alexander; whether kitchens should be contrasting colors or not; whether Culver West should be a separate color; and the ability to make Culver West a dedicated pickleball court.

Vice Chair Peters moved to dual stripe all pickleball courts at Syd Kronenthal, Elenda and Fox Hills Park with the kitchen to be the same color as the rest of the courts, leaving the kitchen painted as it is at Culver West Alexander Park, and leaving net heights at 31 inches. Commissioner Baun seconded the motion.

Commissioner Chen indicated wanting to propose an alternative and was told that the vote would have to be taken on the motion on the table.

MOVED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION RECOMMEND DUAL STRIPING AT ALL THE PADDLE TENNIS COURTS AT SYD KRONENTHAL, ELENDA, AND FOX HILLS PARK WITH THE KITCHEN TO BE THE SAME COLOR AS THE REST OF THE COURTS BUT LEAVING THE KITCHEN PAINTED AS IT IS AT CULVER WEST ALEXANDER AND LEAVING NET HEIGHTS AT 31 INCHES.

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Item A-2

**Receive and File Report on the Culver West Alexander Playground**

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding feedback from the public requesting playground equipment for children with special needs; the traditional play structure in the center of the park with accessibility features; the playground replacement project with more ground-level activities on the structure and surrounding the structure to add accessibility; the focus on selecting equipment that provides a wider range of activities to keep children activated for up to an hour at a time; potential challenges that could affect the schedule; current fencing; community feedback; new fencing added to the project to keep kids and balls off the street; installation; replacement of rubber playgrounds with natural dirt and mud in Finland that changed the micro-biome of the children and improved their health within a year; the importance of being part of nature; the ability to consider changes in the future as renovations are made; appreciation for the design; people who have issues with uneven surfaces; creation of a kids community gardening space; the Adventure Park in Orange County; taking children and their caregivers into consideration; and age limit for the ziplines.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES RECEIVE AND FILE A REPORT ON THE CULVER WEST ALEXANDER PLAYGROUND.

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Item A-3

**Receipt and Filing of Report on the Maintenance at The Boneyard**

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the drinking fountains; assistance required from Public Works; lighting; maintenance; and a suggestion for posting notices for tracking maintenance so people understand that items are scheduled to be handled.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT ON MAINTENANCE OF THE BONEYARD.

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Item A-4

**Receipt and Filing of Updates from the Members of the Parks,  
Recreation and Community Services Commission Ad Hoc  
Subcommittees and Representative Appointees to Outside  
Associations and City Committees**

Commissioner Baun reported that the next Senior Center meeting would be on Monday so she had no report.

Vice Chair Peters reported on the meeting of the Culver Arts Foundation; discussed the Vibes at Five event; an upcoming arts fundraiser to help those dealing with challenges related to ICE; consideration of the Foundation budget and financial overview; cash flow challenges; changes to the level of support they can provide for the Culver City Performing Arts Grant this year; concern with the level of involvement allowed in the creative process for the Summer Concert Series; Olympics fundraising; the vote to approve an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Culver City positioning Culver Arts as a fiscal agent for the cultural programming tied to the 2028 Olympics; fundraising targets and goals; City-provided elements; concern with raising the funds and that Olympics efforts would crowd out regular programming; the intent to hire a development staff person; consideration of significant donors; public art in the parks; the Tellefson Park meetings; providing interactive touchable public art and workshop programming rather than just installations; the Colorful Communities Program; and the Arts District tree surrounds.

Chair Alexander discussed the plan to wait until the director position is filled before moving forward on work with the Summer Olympics Preparation Ad Hoc Subcommittee, and noted the meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Subcommittee to be held in June.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding the intent to send the fee study to the City Council on June 8 and an upcoming staff meeting scheduled to prepare for the June 8 City Council meeting.

Commissioner Baun reported that the Plunge Procedures Ad Hoc Subcommittee had not met.

Commissioner Whitaker reported that the Naming and Renaming Minor Facilities Ad Hoc Subcommittee had not met.

Chair Alexander discussed the Food Truck Permits Ad Hoc Subcommittee noting that staff is working to reconfigure recommendations and go before the City Council.

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding clarification that the item would be considered at the June 22 City Council meeting.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BAUN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHITAKER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTEES TO OUTSIDE ASSOCIATIONS AND CITY COMMITTEES.

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Item A-5

**Receipt and Filing of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission 2026 Meeting Calendar and the Upcoming Agenda Items List, With Adjustments, If Any**

Discussion ensued between staff and Commissioners regarding upcoming agenda items; Commission reorganization in July; clarification on the process to send a Commissioner to the City Council; agreement to agendaize a quick review of the fee structure and food truck items with assignment of a Commissioner to go to the City Council meeting; upcoming community meetings on the budget; the timeline for adoption of the City budget; a suggestion to add the Fire Department to the proposed discussion of Police, Code Enforcement, Housing and Homeless Services, and park safety; concern with a nearby recent fire; slope erosion; willingness of other departments to participate if requested; the inability to require other departments to make a presentation; collaboration with other departments to get information; incorporation of information into the park safety staff report; bringing the request into focus at the next meeting; requesting staff to obtain information vs. requesting other departments to present to the Commission; understanding the relationship between PRCS and other City departments; separating the item to come back at different points; proximity of oil wells to the potential fire zone; frequency of goat clearing; the Housing and Homeless

Services discussion; people breaking into the parks to play pickleball, removing signs, and letting their dogs run around; examining the continuity of how the departments work together; agreement to agendize a report on the Lindberg Park Playground renovation; agreement to provide a summer program preview presentation at the June meeting; agreement to provide an overall grant update in the fall; and City Council approval of the Lowe's grant for the community garden.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHEN, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PETERS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE PRCS COMMISSION 2026 MEETING CALENDAR AND THE UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS LIST, WITH ADJUSTMENTS, IF ANY.

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**Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)**

Chair Alexander invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Commission:

Meg Sullivan indicated being a member of the Senior Center and a user of public transportation; discussed a workshop on May 21 to help those 62 and older apply for senior TAP cards; the proposed installation of pickleball courts under the E-Line at Wesley and National; and she encouraged players to follow the Chair's advice and advocate for the courts at the upcoming City Council budget talks.

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**Items from Commissioners/Staff**

Adam Ferguson, Deputy PRCS Director, discussed the Senior Center Senior TAP card event on May 17, and he acknowledged the work of Daniella Gutierrez, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor overseeing special events including the Mother's Day Tea and the successful partnership with the Garden Club.

Dani Cullens, Recreation and Community Services Manager, discussed the Mental Health Expo from May 18-22; Move with the

Mayor on May 16; Sensory Saturday on May 9; Water Safety Day on May 16; and Lifeguard Training from May 15-17.

Commissioner Whitaker thanked staff for their work and encouraged the public to provide suggestions and feedback noting openness to ideas.

Commissioner Chen thanked staff for their work.

Commissioner Baun discussed walking around the parks in the late evenings; expressed appreciation for the wonderful facilities in Culver City; felt that PRCS staff had done a wonderful job staffing the pool and allowing it to remain open; and she reported contacting Arames White-Shearin regarding the woman in the bathroom at Vets Park.

Vice Chair Peters echoed comments from Commissioner Whitaker in welcoming ideas from the community and she expressed appreciation to staff for their work noting that things were working well.

Chair Alexander echoed previous comments in support of staff and for what they provide to the community; expressed appreciation for feedback from the community; discussed communities being formed; and use of important third spaces.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:36 P.M., the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

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Adam Ferguson  
SECRETARY of the Parks, Recreation and  
Community Services Commission

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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Crystal Alexander  
CHAIR of the PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMISSION  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Bocchino  
CITY CLERK

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Date